

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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It's YOUR Newspaper

Election is Not About Ethnicity

By ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

This election year, there are many questions being raised by electors, one of the biggest being "Is America ready for a Black President?" Valley College students came to the conclusion that there is more to a presidential candidate than race.

More than 30 students gathered to debate the topic Feb. 19 and also view the film "Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed". The film, made in conjunction with "Rock the Vote" and directed by Shola Lynch, follows Shirley Chisholm. She was a Democratic congresswoman from New York, who in 1972 was the first woman and first black person to run for president.

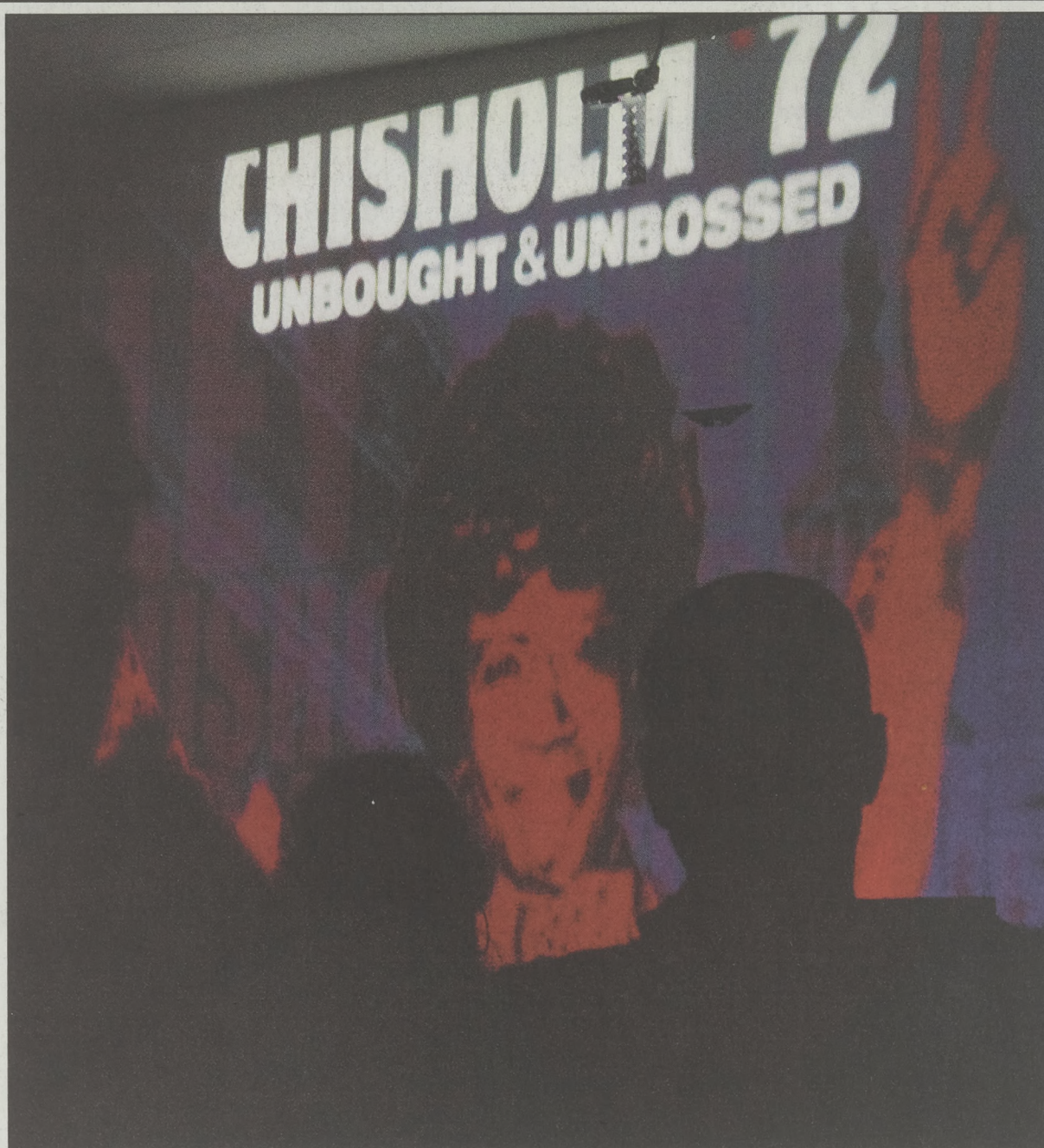
"I think the question isn't is America ready, but is the power structure ready for genuine politics."

- Erin Aubry Kaplan

"[She was] challenging a country to take her seriously," said Tara Lake, assistant professor of African-American studies. "This film gives us a context in which to view more recent candidacies, and of course, Barack Obama."

The film explored many issues, including the assassination attempts during her campaign, her fight to have more African-Americans registered to vote, and her championing the issues of marginalized communities throughout the United States.

see *Discussion* page 7



JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

OBAMA'S NOT THE FIRST-Black Americans have run for president of the United States before. On Feb. 20, Valley College African American Studies organized a screening of the movie "Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed," which documented the presidential campaign of former New York Democratic Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. Chisholm's bid ended when she dropped out of the race at the Democratic National Convention.

Castro Steps Down As President

By KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After 49 years in power, Cuban President Fidel Castro announced Feb. 19 in a letter to state-run newspaper "Granma" that he will "neither aspire to nor accept the positions of President of the State Council and Commander in Chief."

Cuba's National Assembly chose Castro's 76-year-old brother, Raul to succeed him as president of the communist nation.

"My elemental duty is not to cling to positions, much

less to stand in the way of younger persons," Castro wrote, "but rather to contribute my own experience and ideas, whose modest value comes from the exceptional era that I have the privilege of living in."

The announcement comes amid stories of Castro's deteriorating health. In 2006, he temporarily handed power over to his brother when he underwent intestinal surgery. Many in the Cuban-American community celebrated as they waited for what they expected to be his imminent death.

Reaction to the news of Cuba's change of power in the United States was met with caution; President George W. Bush took time out from his trip to Africa to comment. "I believe that the change from Fidel Castro ought to begin a period of democratic transition . . ." he said during a joint press conference with Rwandan President H.E. Paul Kagame. "The international community should work with the Cuban people to begin to build institutions that are necessary for

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SHAI KESTON-NIX / VALLEY STAR

SPARKS ARE FLYING - Construction workers at Valley College are working under various deadlines for the completion of the many projects on campus. These workers are busy at the new Allied Health Center.

Construction Goes On, With Some Setbacks

By ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

New building and renovation projects carry on at Valley College, while construction setbacks continue to be addressed.

"I think the theater building and the T.V. studio building are major [setbacks] because it's been delayed almost a year," said President Tyree Weider. "Art and Music were a disappointment, they are okay. I mean when the job is completed it will be very nice."

Renovations to the Art Building began summer 2007 and were to be completed by August of the same

year. Rinaldo Veseliza, project director for URS, the construction manager for the campus, attributes the delay to design problems, field conditions, and the contractor's inability to work continuously as classrooms were in use.

"We finished the scope of the work that's currently under this contractor, and we're just finishing up the last pieces of the work," Veseliza said.

Some of the work includes replacing floors and rearrangement of seats, because the rows are too narrow for students to walk through,

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Admin. Responds to Profiling Charge

By WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

A Valley College student who filed a complaint accusing a campus Sheriff's deputy of racial profiling met with President Tyree Wieder Monday and said he was assured that the administration was going to take action.

"I felt very good about the meeting, obviously she cares about the situation," said Uriel Eddie, whose meeting came five weeks after the incident. "She said she wants to see the investigative report before making a conclusion . . . [and] give the [sheriffs] a couple more days before making her decision in terms of administratively what she's going to do."

Eddie was taken out of his winter session class by Deputy Tom Lynch on Jan. 10 without explanation after campus police received a call about two people who were disrupting classes in the Chemistry Building. According to the complaint, Lynch said to Eddie, "You're black and the guy we are looking for is black, so what do you expect?"

The complaint drew Wieder's attention after she learned about it on Feb. 12, prompting her to write a letter to The Valley Star, meet with Eddie, and set up a meeting with campus police.

"We're in the process of [assuring this doesn't happen again,]" Wieder said. "We're finding out what occurred [and] we'll talk to the sheriffs. At this point that's all we can do. We'll wait for the investigation to be complete and then we'll meet with the representatives from the sheriff's office and discuss what we can do. Clearly, it is a policy that isn't tolerated, accepted or condoned in any way on this campus."

Repeated attempts to contact the Sheriff's department about the investigation were unsuccessful.

Eddie said he was happy to have met with Wieder, but was concerned that his complaint took so long to get a response from the vice president's office, which oversees the campus sheriffs. He said he had a difficult time

see *Profiling* page 7

A Month To Remember

By SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

To some, February is just another month, but to African-Americans, it represents a chance to celebrate their culture and to recognize the significant contributions made to American society by people of African heritage.

February is the only month out of the year that the nation pays tribute to African-Americans who have helped to shape the American dream. Black History Month offers an opportunity to reflect on the history of the African-American community and share their untold stories.

"Black History Month means everything to me! My people are finally given a month of remembrance and praise," said Valley College student Sean Rogers. "We do a lot for this country and

we've been knocked down so many times. African-Americans have played a major role in the history of the United States of America and have much to be proud of."

Black History Month originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson celebrated the first Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month, to focus attention on black contributions to civilization and the battle against racism. Because both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born in February, Woodson chose the month as a way to honor both men. Since 1976, Negro History Week has been recognized as Black History Month, which is organized nationally by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and

see *History* page 7



VIVIEN LEE-MAYHUE / VALLEY STAR

AFROPOP - Artist DJ Ndebele's four-panel acrylic painting is on display during Black History Month at the Fairfax Market in Los Angeles. Afropop is his catch word for his art which he believes bridges cultures, by using African subjects together with a Western technique.

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THERE IS MORE THAN
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STUDENTS DROP WORDS,
NOT BOMBS IN FORENSICS
CHAMPIONSHIP

Affordable Health Care On Campus

By WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

Students looking for an affordable health care option that fits into the frenzied schedule of college life can find one in between classes at the Valley College Student Health Center.

The center, located in the North Gym, offers health care services ranging from eye exams to immunizations, breast exams, tests for sexually transmitted diseases and more.

"We work like a regular outside clinic [except] we're only here to service the students," said Maria Sandoval, the center's medical assistant. "They can always come in to get free check-ups if they are sick or if they need a physical for work, school or their own [reasons]."

A primary care physician and a physician's assistant are both available and the center offers referral services for psychological evaluations. The doctor sees patients on Wednesday nights and Sonia Nodal, the full-time physician's assistant, says they regularly have a high amount of student traffic.

"We see about 2000 patients a year," she said. "On busy days, we see anywhere from 40 to 50 students a day."

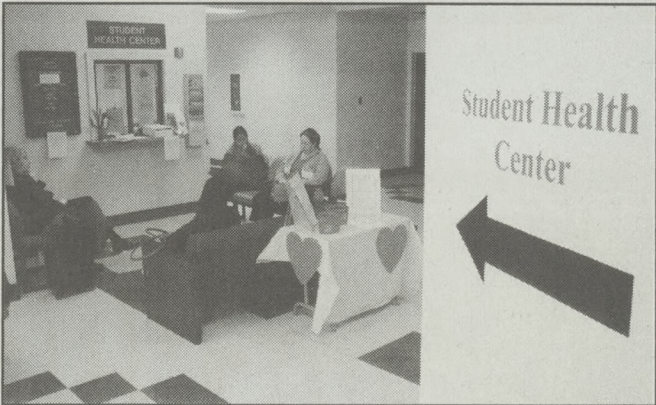
Nodal and Sandoval have both been working at the center for more than three years and Sandoval said their work is appreciated by Valley students.

"We love being here to assist students," Sandoval said. "We have students who come in the evening, between classes and even regulars who have been here for years. They appreciate it and most say it's easier for them to come here."

At a time when low-cost health care is a hot topic across the country, a majority of the center's services are provided for a one-time charge of \$11. Students pay this health fee when they pay their enrollment fees for the semester.

Paying it entitles them to use the center as long as they're registered. Students must present their school ID card and a registration fee receipt to confirm their eligibility.

While not all of the services are free, those that do require additional charges are usually at a much lower cost than outside clinics. Certain immunizations and lab tests, such as Hepatitis B, cholesterol and diabetes screening are offered at reduced costs.



JOSE SOTO / VALLEY STAR

WAITING FOR THE DOCTOR - The Valley College Student Health Center is open for business on campus in the North Gym.

Along with the regular patients, the center also attracts the attention of first time visitors.

"I'd love to use the center," said Monique Fronti, a psychology major. "I don't have insurance so I think it's a good idea to check it out."

The center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays.

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SANDRA REYES / VALLEY STAR

ASU WANTS YOU - Valley College Associated Student Union Secretary Lauren Lees is on the lookout for new ASU members. The ASU consists of two branches: The Executive Council and the Inter Club Council.

Student Union Seeks New Leaders

By JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

Students looking for a part-time gig on campus, look no further; the Associated Student Union's ranks thirst for new blood.

Several vacancies availed themselves within Valley's ASU this fall semester, with positions including parliamentarian, inter club council representative and commissioner of fine arts.

ASU mass exodus happens periodically as students matriculate, find other employment or leave for academic reasons. In an effort to replace them, the ASU seeks good "people people"

and passionate students.

"We're looking for hardworking, motivated, and determined people," said ASU Secretary Lauren Lees. "Someone who's going to suit up and show up."

To the dismay of the remaining ASU members, the vacancies generated lackluster enthusiasm, with only the commissioner of student and social affairs vacancy being filled. "It's sad that not a lot of people are interested. They don't realize what there is to gain by joining the ASU," Lees continued, "We get to meet a lot of cool people, gain interpersonal skills, learn how to plan events; it can be such a great experience."

ASU members feel the lack of interest is due to the nature of a commuter school; students arrive on campus, attend class and go home without noticing the diverse campus based organizations and events surrounding them.


Open positions include five voting seats and one nonvoting seat. The commissioner positions vote on all propositions, whereas the parliamentarian does not.

The duties of the commissioner of campus and environmental concerns include promoting awareness of the campus

see ASU page 7

I won't need anyone's help.
I can do it on my own.

With that degree, it's gonna give me more opportunity so I can make more money.... A job is just a job. A career is something that you worked for. I feel better as a person now - I feel more accomplished.



Michelle Oquendo
DeVry University '08
Technical Management

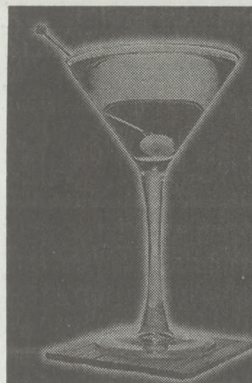
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Student Caught with Staff Permit

By SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

Health Concerns

While walking between the Foreign Language and Administrations building on Feb. 11, a student complained of pain in the left arm and chest region. No further information was available.

Student Altercation

Two students were involved in a verbal altercation on Feb. 13. The incident occurred on campus around 2:05 p.m.

Off Campus Incident

A Valley College employee was transported to Sherman Oaks Hospital after having shortness of breath in the campus bookstore on Feb. 12 at approximately 6:40 p.m. The current condition of the employee is unknown.

Property Damage

The Los Angeles Police Department was notified after a Valley College employee had her keys stolen out of her purse, off campus, on Feb. 15. A police report was filed.

Parking Lot Incidents

A traffic accident occurred in parking lot G on Feb. 12. The number of vehicles involved, or further information was not available on the incident.

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with incidents to please call them at (818) 947 - 2911

On Feb. 12 at approximately 1:25 p.m., a student was found to be using a staff parking permit in parking lot G, and refused to show identification when asked.

CANDIDATE CRUNCH

PART TWO OF A TWO PART SERIES. THE VALLEY STAR STAFF EXAMINE THE NATION'S POTENTIAL NOMINEES
THIS WEEK: MIKE HUCKABEE AND HILLARY CLINTON PROVE THEIR MERIT

Huckabee's Got Heart

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

There are many personal qualities a candidate must have to make a great president of the United States. Sure, there are the common sense qualities such as honesty and decisiveness, as well as the ability to relate to the public by being an excellent communicator, but one of the most important qualities needed is determination. In the race toward the 2008 election, there is no candidate that has more of that than former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee.

While an epic knock-down-drag-out brawl is taking place on the liberal side of the political spectrum, news outlets are seeing the conservative party as a little more predictable, deeming Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) as they obvious frontrunner for the Republican party. But Mike Huckabee is bound and determined to prove them wrong. His steadfast willpower is not sparked by hubris, but by beliefs.

"Let me assure you that if it were about ego, my ego doesn't enjoy getting these kinds of evenings where we don't win the primary elections," Huckabee said at a hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas after his most recent defeat in Wisconsin. "So it's got to be about something more than that, and it is. It's about convictions."

While there are constant misunderstandings and flip-flops taking place between McCain, Clinton and Obama alike, Huckabee prefers not to get involved in the political mayhem and seems to be the only candidate standing firm with every belief he brought into the campaign

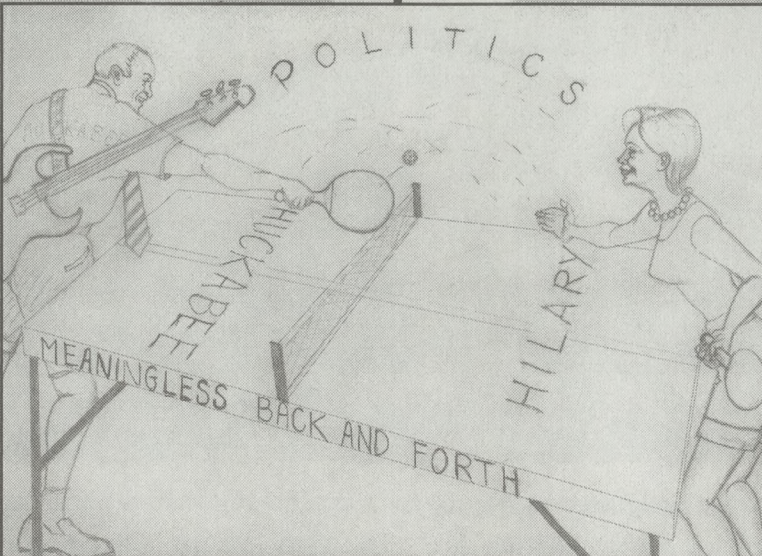
world, however extreme they may be. He has an unshakable belief that a majority of the Republican Party has yet to be heard from and that he is the man to let them have that chance.

Huckabee is a staunch supporter of protecting "traditional marriage, the sanctity of life, individual empowerment and a re-vamping of the federal tax code to encourage productivity," as he explains on his official Web site. He is also passionate about other things relatable to both parties, such as education and health. During his time as Arkansas governor, he was dedicated to improving children's education, and the state became known for having one of the country's best school-accountability programs under his supervision. He also initiated a health program that granted 70,000 Arkansas children medical insurance.

Huckabee, a self-proclaimed fiscal conservative, seems to be the only real Republican running. Even though John McCain is a registered Republican, almost every one of his points of contention in his debate repertoire swings more to the left than to the right. McCain's thoughts on shutting down Guantanamo and his amnesty plan for immigration reform has Republicans laughing in his face as he waves his "I'm a proud Republican" banner with each speech. Huckabee never waivers in his right-wing beliefs, though, no matter who he is speaking with.

The 51-year-old presidential hopeful proves to be the most relatable candidate in the election as well.

Huckabee exudes his down-home persona magnificently, constantly proving his ability to blend with the



COURTESY OF PARANDEZEM "PAULA" GRIGORYAN

public, especially by explaining his love of playing bass guitar. He has his own band called Capitol Offense that may seem like your neighborhood garage band, but has actually opened for some big-name artists such as Willie Nelson and the Charlie Daniels Band.

America is in dire need of change and part of that change would be to have a president that stands by what he (or she) believes and do something about the problems taking over our country, and Mike Huckabee is the candidate who looks most promising to do just that. Besides, we have had an actor, saxophone player, and a bunch of sailors and runners running the country; isn't it about time we have a rock and roll band member in the White House to shake things up?

Intelligence, Idealism, Hillary

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

crowd of supporters at a rally at Cal State Northridge. "... I'm offering not only my 35 years of experience, but to be your voice inside the White House."

While she has only been in the Senate for seven years, Clinton has spent much of her adult life in public service. Even when she was not the one in charge, she proved herself to be a passionate and determined advocate for the issues most important to her.

She refuses to allow roadblocks to impede her. Even though the health care initiative she fought for during her husband's presidency crashed and burned, she has taken the lessons she learned from that experience and applied them to her current proposal for universal healthcare.

While still trying to inspire her supporters with idealistic visions of America as a nation with "a history of breaking through barriers and solving our problems," she offers realistic plans for her presidency.

Clinton does not mince words in her criticism of the Bush Administration; she offers concrete solutions to the problems his leadership has caused. Whether it's declaring an end to "cowboy diplomacy" or offering a detailed explanation of her

plan for universal healthcare, explaining how she will end the Iraq War or how she will make a college education more affordable, Clinton speaks in realistic terms rather than just appealing to her supporters' hopes.

"We can't just have speeches, we've got to have solutions and we need those solutions for America," Clinton said during an Ohio speech. "We have got to get America back in the solutions business. Because, while words matter, the best words in the world aren't enough unless you match them with action."

While Clinton is a candidate who combines intelligence, idealism and experience, her campaign has certainly not been perfect. In her attacks against Barack Obama, Clinton seems to have allowed her desire to be the Democrat's presidential candidate get in the way of creating a unified Democratic Party. The sniping between and her and Obama is doing nothing but pitting fellow Democrats against each other, based on which candidate they support. Rather than trying to gain the nomination at any price, Clinton should keep the bigger picture in mind of getting a Democrat, even if it's not her, back in the White House in November.

Military Recruiters Unwelcome

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Actions like those taken by the Berkeley City Council declaring that "the Marine recruiting office is not welcome in our city, and if recruiters choose to stay, they do so as uninvited and unwelcome intruders" are one of the reasons why liberalism has become a dirty word in this nation. After all, in the current presidential race, while Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona is being forced to prove that he is a true conservative, the Democrats' shouting matches are not over who can out-liberal the other.

The city council's decision simply perpetuates the view that anyone who is against the war is an America-hating traitor. In a statement in the House of Representatives, Texas Republican Ted Poe prefaced his denunciation of Berkeley's actions by stating that he "and the rest of the freedom loving Americans" supported the Marines. He went on to

belittle the council members saying, "Berkeley's deplorable anti-Marine city leaders

"Berkeley's [...] city leaders must still have a 60s peacenik hippie mentality that world peace can occur by sitting around smoking dope..."

- Ted Poe

must still have a 60s peacenik hippie mentality that world peace can occur by sitting around smoking dope and banging on the tambourine."

Although the council retracted the original Jan. 29 declaration saying, "The intent of the action was not to impugn the men and women in the armed forces who choose to serve our country in time of need, . . . [but] to reiterate the City's strong and repeated opposition to the unjust, illegal and immoral war in Iraq and the foreign policy of the current administration," the city's leaders took the wrong course when they associated

opposition to the war with opposition to military recruiters.

Rather than inspiring a dialogue about the war, Berkeley's city leaders merely succeeded in making it easy for war supporters to change the language surrounding the anti-war movement to patriotic Americans against unpatriotic Americans, making it much easier to dismiss the arguments of those who speak out against the war.

Standing up for one's beliefs is the most important thing a person can do, especially if they are speaking out against what they perceive to be an injustice. At the same time, in order to make the most effective argument possible, people should learn when their actions have done nothing but make their cause look bad.

"This issue is not the war. It's what the City Council did," said Berkeley Councilmember Gordon Wozniak. "Individuals have the right to choose and we should not impede that. We've embarrassed our city."

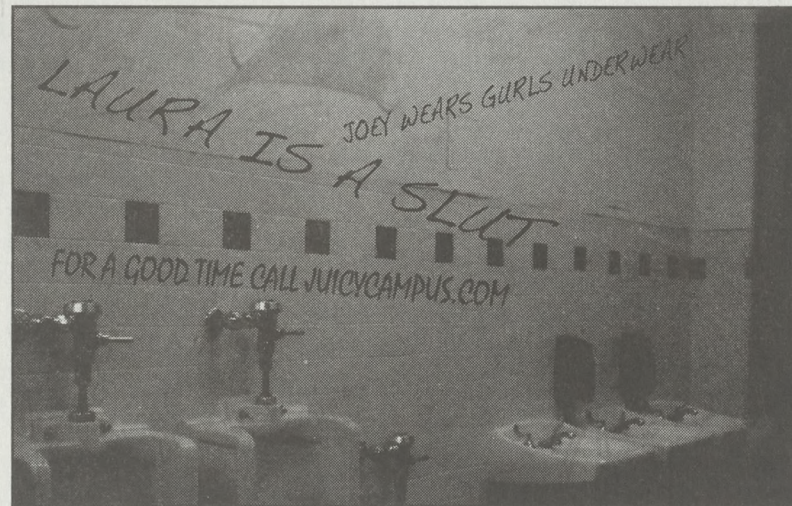


PHOTO / VIVIAN LEE-MAYHUE / ILLUSTRATION / JAMES BENNETT / VALLEY STAR

Cybergossip: Total Hilarity

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

Last week the Valley Star tackled the issue of old-fashioned head-in-toilet bullying, but forget that boring old jive. In our increasingly connected world, wedgies and whispers just don't cut it; it's all about cyberbullying. Rumor and gossip Web sites are on the rise with hilarious results, testing the thickness of student's hides across the country. Bullying only gets better when Photoshop, captions and Adobe Aftereffects are entered into the equation.

It all started with the now defunct schoolsandals.com, a Web site forum where students from a slew of Southern California schools could post about their daily extracurricular affairs. The site quickly degenerated into a vibrant and beautiful cesspool of slander. The weak and meek alike found the closest e-desk to hide under while their classroom comrades bashed each other from cock's crow till 12-bells toll. Girls found themselves Photoshopped onto cows while boys were called out and their masculinity questioned. The nerds had their revenge.

In a 2003 New York Times article, Allan J. Weiner, principal of Cleveland High School right here in the Valley was quoted saying, "You just never know if someone who has been hurt by something they read online might try to retaliate in a physical way." The logic here is that students are more, or equally likely to go fisticuffs due to online bullying as opposed to the real deal; I don't see the logic in that logic. A student raging at their desk at home is far less likely to sucker punch someone who's not in the same room as them, or the same house, or quite possibly the same ten-mile radius. One would think that giving students a good night sleep and a midnight snack would render them substantially less inclined to act on their impassioned killer instinct.

Cyberbullying reentered the newsosphere recently, thanks

to an article published by the Associated Press regarding JuicyCampus.com, a collegiate reincarnation of the beloved and reviled Schoolsandals. The site features a forum for each represented institution, providing wonderful bandwidth for despicable posts.

The article quoted an anonymous JuicyCampus victim who said, "I thought, 'Is this going to affect my job employment? Is this going to make people on campus look at me? Are people going to talk about me behind my back?'" These are the types of yellow-bellied worry walrus that ruin everything great. Answers are self-evident; students know how ridiculous and invalid the postings are. If they're not students, they're not going to see the postings at all.

Numerous campuses called for the closing of JuicyCampus to no avail. Matt Ivester, the site's founder stands firm in his support of his brainchild. The AP quoted him saying, "we believe that JuicyCampus can have a really positive impact on college campuses, as a place for both entertainment and free expression. Frankly, we're surprised that any college administration would be against the free exchange of ideas." Poignant.

The difference between a bathroom wall and a message board boils down to porcelain tiles versus background tiles, copper pipes versus copper wire; both see their fair share of society's refuse getting flushed. The popular gaming Web comic Penny Arcade summed it up nicely when fictional protagonist John Gabriel formulated the "Greater Internet [Jerk]wad Theory." Gabriel's hypothesis plainly states that [Normal Person] + [Anonymity] + [Attention] = Total [Jerk]wad.

Buck up kids. Always remember that when on the Internet, for your sanity's sake, precautions must be taken. Believe nothing that you read, nothing that you see, none of what you hear, and half of what you smell.

CAMPUS View

How do you feel about military recruiters on campus?



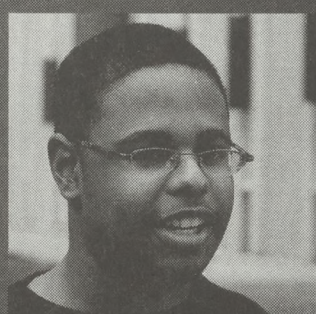
"The whole practice is morally questionable. I'd rather they stayed off campus. If someone wanted to join the military, they'd go join the military."

-Sean Rider, engineering



"They shouldn't be here. I don't agree with the war or the military. They shouldn't be getting involved with college students, we're here to study."

-Cynthia Velazquez, music



"They're cool. They talk to me a lot but I already have plans. If I didn't, I might consider joining. They're OK, very respectful."

-Christopher Johnson, sports broadcasting



"Sometimes they hound people a bit too much. . . they get paid based on how many people they recruit, ignoring that they're committing someone's life for so long."

-Samadrita Chawhury, psychology

photos by Jonathan Gibby / Valley Star

Staff Editorial

BY THE VALLEY STAR EDITORIAL BOARD

The Valley College Sheriff's Department Web site states as its core values: "As a leader in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, I commit myself to honorably perform my duties with respect for the dignity of all people, integrity to do right and fight wrongs, wisdom to apply common sense and fairness in all I do and courage to stand against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and bigotry in all its forms."

On Jan. 10, 2008, Sheriff's Deputy Tom Lynch seemingly forgot these high ideals. Lynch responded to a call from a lab technician that two young men, one black and one white, were disrupting classes in the Chemistry Building. While he was doing his job, looking for the two suspects, he overstepped his bounds by removing Uriel Eddie from his class. According to the complaint Eddie filed on Feb. 5, the reason Lynch gave for his actions were, "You're black and the guy we were looking for is black, so what do you expect?"

Forsomeone with so much authority, we would expect better. Making such a comment shows a lack of responsibility and short sightedness.

Although Lynch also ordered a white man from the classroom for questioning, he detained Eddie for a longer amount of time, despite the fact that, according to witnesses that day, the only similarity Eddie shared with the suspect was skin color. He was two decades older than the "high-school age" suspects and wore a grey turtleneck, not green scrubs as the description said the perpetrator was wearing.

Rather than making assump-

tions based on skin color, had Lynch acted responsibly, he would first have ascertained if there was enough evidence to pull any students from the class. Although the instructor wasn't in the room when Lynch entered, the sheriff's deputy should have spoken with him before taking any action.

Eddie did nothing wrong. Indeed, he was guilty only of being a diligent student, yet he said he was humiliated when he was ordered out of class in front of his peers, because of a vague description he did not even match. While we know Eddie did not commit any crime, his classmates that day do not necessarily know that he was questioned by officers because of a case of mistaken identity.

When students come to school, they don't expect to be forced out of class indiscriminately, based on their skin color. While the sheriffs have a job to do, they are also responsible for doing that job fairly and while respecting the basic rights of Valley's students.

We here at the Valley Star understand the importance of creating an atmosphere of safety, but do the sheriffs want students to be constantly looking over their shoulders to see if they are about to be accused of a crime with little evidence?

Valley administration has stated that Lynch is currently on medical leave with Deputy Rick Baker serving as Lynch's temporary replacement. Let's hope that Baker learns from Lynch's mistake and enforces the law responsibly and with respect for the Valley community.



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR / PHOTO EDITOR

The Academy Awards: A Firsthand Account

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

I had the pleasure of being hired to work as a production assistant for ABC's "Red Carpet Show" this year and in turn, got to experience the famous red carpet from a first-person perspective.

From helping put up the tarps before the rain came, to bringing the director his non-milk, soy peanut butter and chocolate smoothie every day (hey, that's show business, right?) all the grunt work was worth it when we all put on our black-tie outfits and headed out on the carpet to greet the stars as they walked to their seats in the gorgeous Kodak Theatre.

For the first year since he started the infamous red carpet show almost 30 years ago, Regis Philbin was asked to host the show this year, along with co-stars Shaun Robinson from "Access Hollywood" and Samantha Harris

from "Dancing With the Stars."

The reason behind this choice is obvious. "Regis is the perfect guy to serve as host. He knows everyone, and everyone loves Regis!" producer Dennis Doty said in a statement. "I'm thrilled that he has agreed to be the ringmaster for this year's extravaganza."

Extravaganza is right; the show was a whirlwind of location, star interviews and teleprompter changes all right up to 2:59 p.m. and 55 seconds, Pacific time, the time the show went live around the world. With no warning of when stars would be strutting down the carpet, everyone in the production trailers and on the carpet alike were on their heels, waiting in anticipation for each nominee and presenter.

One of my jobs was to watch the cameras from the production truck and let the editors know

when I saw a celebrity and what their name was. Now, I do not have a lot of background in reading gossip columns or National Enquirer type magazines, but I can spot a George Clooney or Jennifer Garner easily. As I sat and blurted out names and some of their most recent work, it all felt very surreal. I was sitting in a production truck nearly 50 feet from some of the most famous people in the world, and I felt like it was just another day at work.

It was not until I stepped out on the red carpet to deliver something to a stage manager that I felt the impact of the night. My all-access pass had me walking right next to the likes of Patrick Dempsey, Hillary Swank, and Katharine Heigl, who all smiled briefly as if to acknowledge me and my appreciation of their star-power and continued

down the carpet. I also blended into the crowd of people and did a bit of star-watching myself, which turned out to be a pretty gratifying guilty pleasure.

Perhaps it was because of all the cameras around or the fact that they were thrilled to just get out of the rain, but each star that I came in contact with or even spoke to was nothing but generous and pleasant. Maybe I am just one of the lucky ones.

It was a very dreamlike experience, but one that gave me a real appreciation for the work people do in live television. Seeing all the work and preparation that takes place showed me that it truly is not all about the glitz and glamour, and the people behind the scenes do not get acknowledged enough for the work that they do.

Big Brother's Road Trip

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

In today's crowded world, a nice quiet car ride away from all the noise and responsibility of life in the 21st century is a precious commodity. Some good old-fashioned alone time on the way to work or school. There's one small problem though, you may not be as alone as you thought.

Conspiracy theorists' fears and Big Brother's dreams are both coming to closer to reality, all thanks to the wonders of three simple letters: GPS.

Global positioning systems, which, as the name implies, track your position on the planet, have seen their popularity skyrocket in the last decade as more carmakers make them easily available to the average auto owner. The product, also called navigational systems, offer a variety of wonderful comforts at the mere touch of a screen or button. They tell you where to turn to find that elusive new restaurant you want to try, which freeway to take for your road trip and finally let you put away that Boy Scout compass and old Thomas Guide.

If it all sounds just a little too good to be true, it very well may be.

For those who thought they had to stop worrying about an inseparable companion

watching over everything they do when the doctor cut their umbilical cords, technology has a hidden surprise.

An article published online this month by MSN Money raises the disturbing question of "Will your car rat you out?" and highlights the reality that these great little

torist mentioned in the MSN article that rented a car with a navigational system, drove it and returned it with no troubles. Or so he thought. Much to his shock, since he had never been stopped or ticketed by any police officer, the rental company sent him a bill with a \$450 fine for speeding.

The company's justification came from the GPS system in his car, which was equipped with the technology to not only give him directions, but also track his location and calculate his speed.

While his fine was overturned by a court only because the company failed to make their policy clear, the incident raises the larger issue of driver privacy.

There are a growing number of cases across the country involving fines, crimes and tickets as a result of information gathered through vehicle GPS. Everything from surprise speeding tickets to knowing that no matter where you go, someone is watching and storing your activity are enough to worry even some of the most rational drivers.

The scariest part for most motorists is the lack of legal precedents in cases involving GPS evidence, leaving them as the unwilling guinea pigs in technology's surveillance laboratory. Somewhere, George Orwell is smiling.

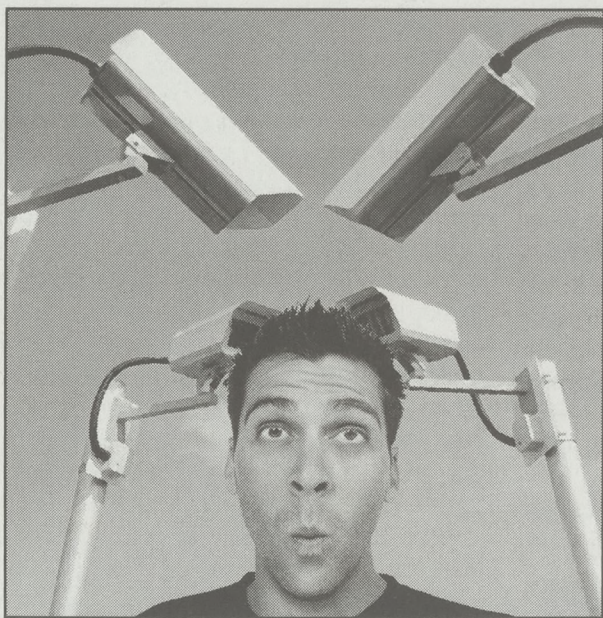
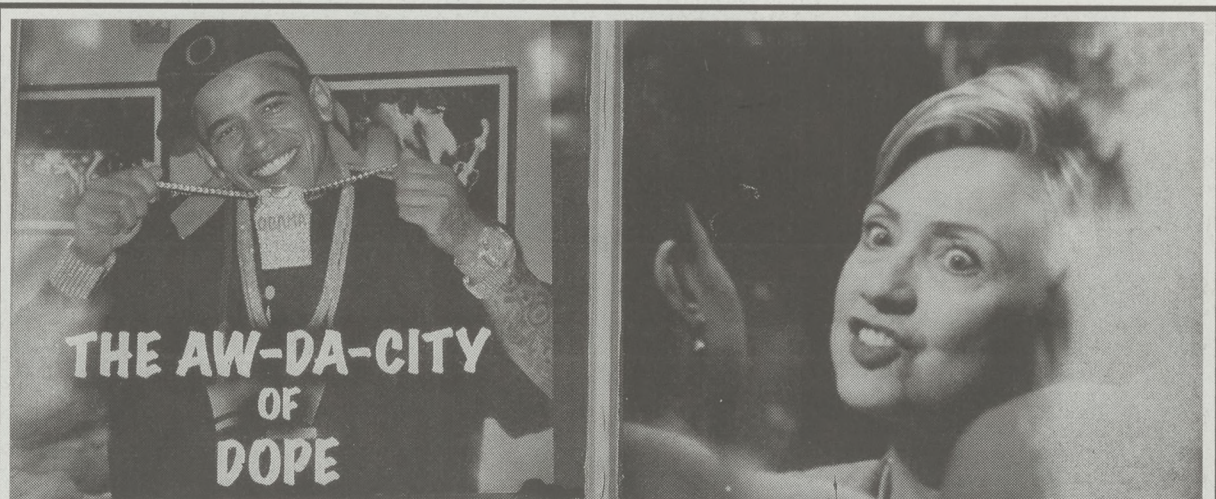


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / PARANDEZEM "PAULA" GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

GPS systems may come at the cost of their owner's privacy.

Much like the appeal of supermarket cards that save you money at the check out line, but come at the cost of releasing your spending habits, GPS gives a little, but potentially takes a lot more. While most consumers probably don't mind that Ralph's knows how much milk and toilet paper they buy every week, it's safe to say the information stored by the computer in their car could raise some eyebrows.

Take the story of a mo-



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

TOO AW-DACIOUS? – Good irreverent fun or irresponsible and offensive? Brazenly placed in the window of bungalow 24, the Photoshopped pictures turn heads faster than Bill Gates turns profit. Are you offended or amused? Send us your thoughts at www.lavalleystar.com

Forsaking Our Civic Duty

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

When California went to the polls for the presidential nomination three weeks ago, it was easy to spot those who had cast a ballot. Students and faculty alike wandered around campus with their "I voted" stickers stuck to their chests. But what stood out more were those people who were lacking the red, white and blue sticky declaration of voting.

In a nation that seems to have no problem in expressing its opinion about anything, it was interesting to see that not everyone was using that day to do so. Having the opportunity to vote is the one time that every person's opinion is equal, and almost every individual has the ability to participate in the democratic process. It's ridiculous that people do not take advantage of this.

According to the U. S Cen-

sus Bureau, approximately 215,694,000 people were eligible to vote and 69.5 percent of those people were registered for the 2004 presidential election. However, only 58.3 percent of these people turned out to vote. It's a sad state of the nation when it seems like more people are interested in voting for the next American Idol than the next American president.

There are many reasons why people chose not to register or vote. It could be that they don't have time, they forget, or they don't care about the results. It could be that they are just plain lazy, don't like the look of any candidates or feel like voting isn't going to help make their life better. People seem to forget that they have a right to free speech, and an element of free speech is casting your vote on election day. They also forget that we don't just vote for

candidates for positions of power, but for propositions that can affect our daily lives.

Voting can also be considered civic duty, and helps steer the political direction of the nation. It may seem like a chore you have to try and fit in on Super Tuesday, but your one extra vote could assist in tipping an election one way or another. Think about the fact that we live in a democratic country that holds free elections, and we don't risk being shot or maimed when we go to the polls.

Lets face it, there is nothing more annoying than someone who complains about who is running the country, and then admits that they didn't even vote. Tell them to go cast a ballot next time, and if it still doesn't go their way, then they are free to complain all they want. Now, that's democracy.

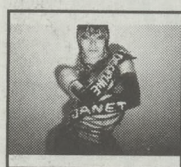
VALLEY LIFE

5

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



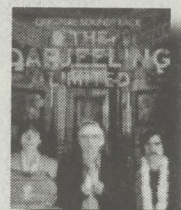
JANET JACKSON, DISCIPLINE

OTHER RELEASES:

Dolly Parton, "Backwoods Barbie"
Erykah Badu, "New Amerykah"
Little Mermaid, "Original Broadcast"
Goldfrapp, "Seventh Tree"

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



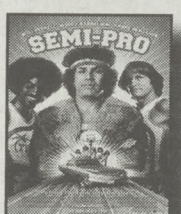
THE DARJEELING LIMITED

OTHER RELEASES:

Beowulf
30 Days of Night
Smurfs: Season 1
Justice League: New Frontier

Movies

PICK OF THE WEEK:



SEMI-PRO

OTHER RELEASES:

The Other Boleyn Girl
Penelope
Bonneville

NEED A CLASS?

■ Check out these Late Start Classes for the Spring 2008 Semester

Child Dev. 44-	Mar. 4
English 28-	Feb. 29
English 101-	Feb. 29
English 103-	Feb. 29
History 1-	Feb. 29
Math 105-	Mar. 1
Math 240-	Feb. 29
Math 245-	Feb. 29
Music 650-	Mar. 1
Philosophy 6-	Apr. 4
Poly Science 1-	Feb. 29
Psychology 1 (Online)-	Feb. 29
Psychology 1-	Feb. 29
Speech 101-	Apr. 4
Speech 151-	Feb. 29

DON'T FORGET TO **You Tube**

Fat Kid Rollercoaster
Kid Owned By Dad
Hilarious Prank Car
Skeleton's Biker Prank

DON'T FORGET TO



American Idol, FOX, 8 pm
Project Runway, Bravo, 10 pm
Talking Metal, Fuse,

Additional content online - Go to
www.lavalleystar.com

Valley Travel By Elizeda Beltran



PAUL OLDEN PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

NICE DAY FOR A STROLL - The Japanese Garden at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino provides ample room to walk and explore.

Paradise Found at the Huntington Library

If you are seeking a spiritual awakening, want to ponder man's place in the world, or just desire to see what you will see or miss in paradise, then The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens is the place to go.

The Huntington Library's 120 acres of beautiful gardens in the 207 acre grounds serve as an oasis in a city of smog.

I first made my way through the Camellia Garden and saw countless shades of pink roses like the pink sparkle and camellia japonica surrounded by a bed of fallen petals. Then some water splashing led me to a beautiful fountain, it turns out the splashing came from two ducks frolicking in the water.

With paths merging and emerg-

ing all over I decided to ditch the map and just wander around.

The road led me to the Desert Garden, where you can see cactus in all its thorny varieties, like the golden barrel cactus. From there, I entered the jungle. To miss the Jungle Garden would be a sin. Hear the sound of water trickling over pillows of rocks while imagining that a monkey might jump out of nowhere.

Then I ended at the Subtropical and Australian Gardens where you can find Trumpet Tress, mossy roads adorned with oxalis purpurea, basically purple flowers, and Eucalyptus. The smell of wood intoxicated my nostrils and reminded me of my childhood days playing in the country fields.

A couple of steps and I found myself in the Japanese Garden. A

few drops of water fell, and having left my umbrella in the car I decided to take shelter in the rain and keep exploring. A jungle of Bamboo led me into a furnished Japanese house build in the Shoin style. All the elements of the garden like rocks, water, and plants work together to bring serenity.

The newly opened Liu Fang Yuan, a garden based on the tradition of private Chinese gardens offers scenic beauty with a lake surrounded by rocks imported from Lake Tai. I took a tranquil walk through the pavilions and bridges richly decorated with plum, pine, and bamboo, which in China symbolize courage, endurance, and perseverance because they bloom in the cold season.

Don't forget to visit the literary and artistic side of the place. The

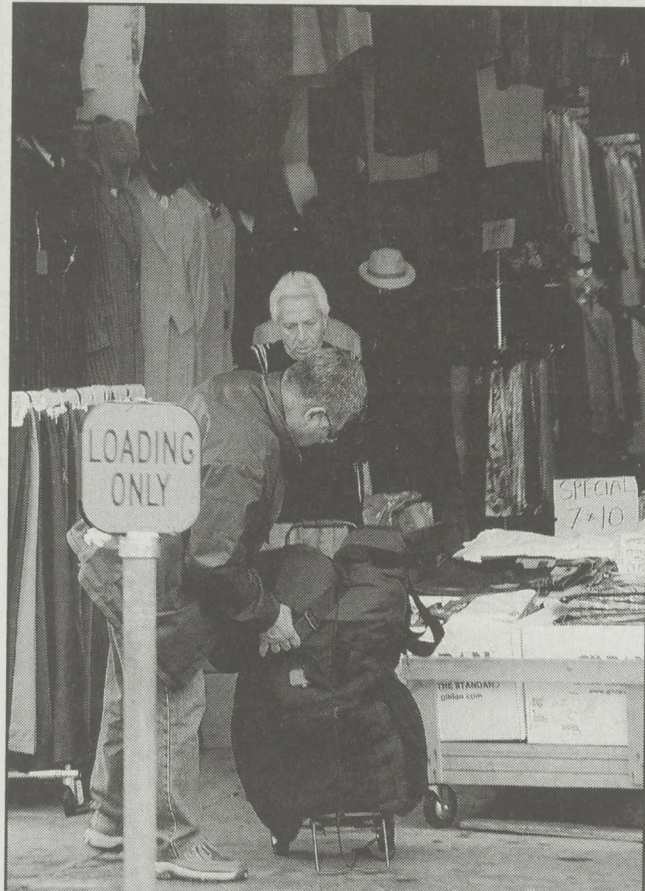
Huntington Library is home to a collection of first edition works by poet John Donne, Shakespeare, a King James Bible from 1613, and many more. End your trip by paying a visit to our first president George Washington, at least in the famous portrait by Gilbert Stuart that appears in the high school textbooks.

At the end of the trip I ended with muddy boots, soaked hair, no pictures to testify to my trip because I forgot my camera, and a heightened understanding of nature.

You can visit Huntington grounds Monday, Wednesday Thursday, and Friday from 12 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets for students are only \$10.

Fakes and Flowers At The Fashion District

ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR



SANDRA REYES/ VALLEY STAR

FOLLOW THE SIGN - These two shoppers in the downtown Los Angeles fashion district seem to be taking their direction from the street sign.

I have lived in Los Angeles for more than a year, but I still haven't gotten around to exploring what lies over the hill. With that in mind, and Spring just around the corner, I headed to the Los Angeles Fashion District.

Spanning more than 90 blocks of Downtown, the Fashion District offers textiles, produce, electronics, cosmetics and of course, all the fashion that you can lay your hands on.

My first stop was Santee Alley, which runs parallel to Santee Street, between Olympic and Pico. The alley is an orgy of color and sound, filled with sellers hocking everything from discount perfume to shoes of all descriptions. There are some good deals to be had, and sellers are willing to haggle with you, but there is a catch.

The alley is notorious for counterfeit goods, so if the bargain sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

The next stop was the flower market, located on Wall Street between 7th and 8th. The flower market charges the general public admission, so if you want to avoid the extra cost, there are plenty of florists on 8th Street to purchase from. Again, there are plenty of bargains to find - I would have bought an arrangement of lilies for \$10 if I didn't have to haul them back home on the subway.

According to the Fashion District Web site, many wholesale sellers open their doors to the public on Saturdays, though on the day I went, this seemed not to be the case. It was disappointing that many stores were closed or not willing to sell to the public at all. The lack of food was also a let down. There were

food carts dotted all over the district, but no matter how hard I tried to follow my nose, I could not pinpoint where the tantalizing smell of Asian cuisine was coming from.

There are several things a budding fashionista should know before trekking to the fashion district. Many retailers do not accept credit cards and ATMs are few and far between, so be armed with an adequate amount of cash. Having cash also helps in bartering with sellers for a better deal.

Visit fashiondistrict.org to plan your trip, as it has a wealth of information regarding trading hours, directions and special events. You can also view a map of the district, but if you want a free hard copy of the map, you will need to request it in advance as the version on the website is not printable.

The Silver Screen By Joshua Spence

Gondry Rewinds the Mold

Successfully landing at the intersection of subtle social commentary and flat out funny, director Michel Gondry and company deliver a high-quality, lo-fi masterpiece in "Be Kind, Rewind."

Continuing to explore the concept of dreams and memory, Gondry uses less of his trademark hyper-surreal settings as seen in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and "The Science of Sleep" in favor of a more realistic, stripped down setting that finally allows those concepts to manifest themselves metaphorically and figuratively, instead of just being purely visual. This adds significant depth to the story and its characters.

Mike (Mos Def) is a video store clerk at the dilapidated Be Kind, Rewind video store and thrift shop in Passaic, New Jersey. When the owner, Mr. Fletcher (Danny Glover), leaves Mike in charge for a week while on a "memorial tour," Fletcher's sole request is, "Keep Jerry Out."

Jerry (Jack Black), Mike's best friend, co-worker and nuisance, is convinced the power plant is intentionally sabotaging his brainwaves while he sleeps underneath its power lines every night.

In an act of retaliation gone wrong, Jerry develops an unusual side effect that turns him (occasionally) into a human magnet. After discovering that the entire store's catalog has been magnetized and erased, Mike decides the only way to keep the store afloat and not disappoint Mr. Fletcher is to reshoot all of the films.

"Be Kind, Rewind" is a film worth watching for many reasons. This is arguably Jack Black's best performance to date. While over the top is his niche, he plays a character who's flat out crazy compared

see "Rewind" page 7



COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

On Campus

Sidewalk Cafe Serves Food On The Run

JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

Perpetually late and starving students rejoice, the Sidewalk Café opens soon. Conveniently located adjacent to the road behind the Humanities Building, the Café offers food and drink for both patrons on the go and those with cafeteria phobia alike. Opening on Feb. 25, the Café offers a cornucopia of portable delicacies, ranging from \$4 Ciabatta sandwiches to \$1 boxed salads for the health minded.

Due to health code restrictions, the Sidewalk Café cannot serve hot food, but that didn't stop Food Service Manager Eric Dean from whipping up a diverse menu. The kiosk offers a wide range of consumables, ranging from several types of "Grab 'n Go" sandwiches, salads, ice

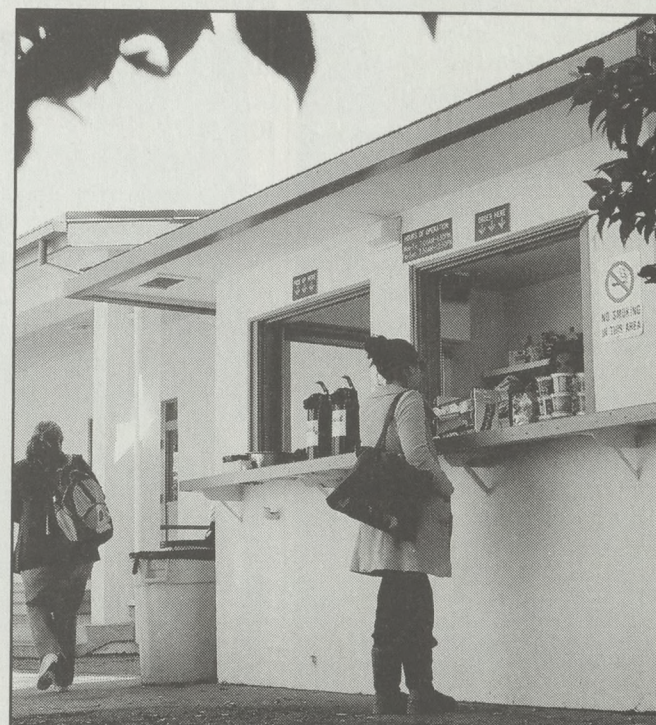
cream, all-natural "Dirty" chips and candy. Drinks range from regular and decaf coffee, soft drinks, energy drinks and the ever-popular Sobe.

Despite Dean's best efforts, Valley students were none too pleased with the proposed menu. Some students sought healthy options, like literature major Ismael Gonzalez, "I'd like to see more natural drinks, organic choices. There's too much soda, cookies and candy. I'd like to see more fruit as well." Other students craved sweet and savory, "Frappuccinos, pancakes in the morning and milkshakes, too" requested Liana Murilo. Linh Huynh is looking for a few practical items, such as Scantron forms.

Coffee. Students want all sorts of coffee. Namely, students want elaborate coffee drinks, such as Frappuccino.

Unfortunately, the Sidewalk Café's coffee selection consists chiefly of frillless regular or decaf. However, Integrated Support Solutions Inc., the company that owns and operates our cafeteria is testing the success of a cappuccino machine at sister school Moorpark College; if it's a success, we may have frothy cappuccinos scalding our tongues at Valley.

The Sidewalk Café will be dusting off its windows and serving to-go goodies Monday through Thursday from 7:30am to 2:00pm unless business is booming, in which case it will remain open until it subsides. Students and faculty alike are reminded that while the Sidewalk Café won't be serving hot food, the cafeteria is a great option for on-campus meals; and as Dean says, "The cafeteria is only a hop, skip and a jump away."



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN/ VALLEY STAR

STEP RIGHT UP ... AGAIN- The sidewalk cafe reopened its windows Monday, Feb. 25, offering students their favorite snacks.

WHAT'S NEW

@ LVALLEYSTAR.COM

Dukakis Tells of Lessons Learned
By Kristen Becker

Oscars Review
By Shannon McHugh

Cyber Gossip: Total Hilarity
By James Bennett

Admin. Responds to Profiling Charge
By Will Reyes

TOP 5 STORIES

@ LVALLEYSTAR.COM

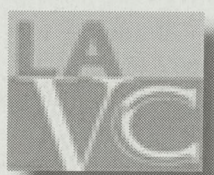
American I-Dull
By Brad Taylor

Lunar Eclipse Slideshow
By Paul Olden

Valley Student Takes a Big "Step Up"
By Sheila Koochak

My Ruin Rocks
By Scott Mitchell

Worst Pickup Line Conceivable
By Shannon McHugh



EVENTS

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

LACCD Board of Trustees Mtg. @ 3:30 pm (Monarch Hall) - Contact: President's Office (818) 947-2321

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Professional Development/ STARS "Microsoft Excel Basics: Sorting, Filtering & Editing Lists" workshop @ 1-2 pm (Professional Development Center) - Professional Development/STARS (818) 947-2712

Diversity Committee Mtg. @ 2 pm (Campus Center 104) - Contact: Walter Jones (818) 947-2726

Professional Development/ STARS Committee Mtg. @ 2 pm (Professional Development Center) - Contact: Deborah Kaye (818) 947-2712

Friday, February 29, 2008
SPRING 2008 Last day to drop classes without receiving a "W" (in person, by telephone and Internet)

Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transfer application deadline is November 30. Apply on line at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply or www.csumentor.edu

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center

Wednesday, February 27
UCLA rep. 9am-3pm
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 1pm-2pm

Friday, February 29
CSU Los Angeles Rep 10am-1pm

Monday, March 3
2008/2009 FAFSA Applications Due

Additional content online - Go to

www.lvalleystar.com

On Campus

Eclipse Darkens The Sky, Illuminates The Mind

JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

Amid the shadowy frame of Valley's flora, our one and only moon emerged from beneath the oppressive regime of cumulonimbus clouds, populating the sky Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. for its greatest performance - a total lunar eclipse.

Lunar eclipses happen when the earth passes between the sun and the moon, causing the earth's shadow to engulf our cosmic cousin, rendering it 10,000 times dimmer in the night sky. The moon's hue gains a reddish-orange tint as the earth's atmosphere acts like a giant cosmic lens, bending red light into the massive shadow and refract-

ing the blue back to the earth below or off into the frigid depths of infinite space. "It looks like a giant red ornament in the sky," commented Astronomy Professor Hal Jandorf.

Lunar eclipses don't happen too often; the last event took place Aug. 28 at approximately 2:30 a.m., the next occurs Dec. 21, 2010 at midnight. This particular eclipse transpired not only early in the evening, reaching its midpoint (total eclipse) at 7:26 p.m., but also near the horizon, allowing casual skywatchers to partake of the lunar festivities.

For many Valley students, this eclipse marked their indoctrination into the world of Astronomy, students



LINE UP TO LOOK - Valley College Professor David Falk who is the director of the school's planetarium, left, gestures to students to check out last week's lunar eclipse.

like Michael Monge who exclaimed "it's incredible, it's amazing" upon placing his eye to the telescopes eyepiece.

"Lunar eclipses are great because people can easily see them," noted Valley astronomy Professor David Falk. "They connect people to the sky."

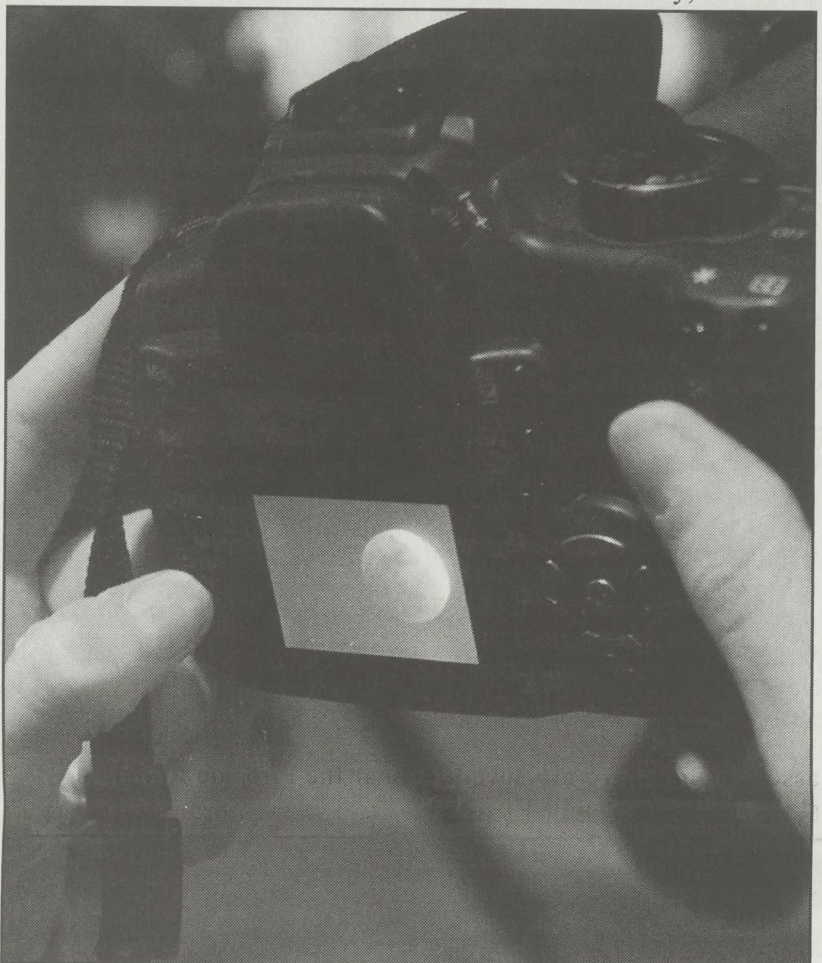
Thanks to an array of telescopes placed near the college's main entrance, eager skygazers were afforded a closer look at the eclipsing moon. As the earth's shadow sweeps across the moon's barren surface, the line where dark meets light casts vast shadows across the moons contours, allowing telescope-equipped viewers to admire the stunning lunar topography.

"It's really cool. It's great to get up close with the telescope. You can really see the shadow moving across the moon" said chemistry student Lilit Sogomonyan.

Valley's astronomy professors explained the science and history of lunar eclipses to students throughout the evening. "I've never seen [a lunar eclipse] with a group of people and a professor" said Valley student Jose Camo "I want to hear what kind of information he's got."

Jandorf explained how Aristotle used a lunar eclipse as his first proof that the earth was round, noting how the shadow was curved as it traversed the moon.

Lunar eclipses can be viewed with the naked eye, although binoculars are preferred. With binoculars, viewers are able to see the contours of the moon's surface more clearly, while still being able to see the revealed night sky behind the shadowed moon. If you missed this year's event, don't fret but set your alarm to the year 2010 and make sure you have a pair of binoculars at the ready.



GREAT SHOT! - Valley College student Adrienne Laksfoss took this photo of the last lunar eclipse to be seen in this area until 2010.

'Rewind'

continued from page 6

to the normal guy roles that he needs to make overtly cartoonish, like his parts in "School of Rock" and "Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny." Def may not have the best lines and certainly does not steal the show from Black, but he doesn't need to. Def's sense of urgency makes you believe Mike and Jerry have to reshoot all the films to keep the business alive. More importantly, he makes the audience believe he can pull it off. What Gondry does best in "Be

Kind, Rewind" is that he can reduce the major Hollywood formula to a series of 10-minute videos. Not to mention Gondry shows considerable deft and craft in using basic, everyday non-sequiter items such as broken fans, Christmas tinsel, trash cans, and other refuse. compared to the standard CGI gloss over in so many films today. The "Ghostbusters" reshoot is classic and "Rush Hour 2" "sweded is light-years better than the original. You can say whatever you want about this film, but "Be Kind, Rewind" is non-stop funny and socially relevant. There isn't more you should want in a film.



COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

"Top Model" Returns For Another Fierce Cycle

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Everything I need to know about life I learned from watching "America's Next Top Model," and this year Mizz Tyra schools the new crop of beauties in Modeling 101.

If you ever turn on VH1 or MTV, you have no doubt seen any number of endless Top Model marathons, and if you are like me, you sit down with some junk food and zone out watch-

ing episodes where you already know the outcome. The premise of girls fighting for a modeling contract has seemed to mesmerize America.

The show was created by former super model Tyra Banks as a way to show the ins and outs of what it takes to make it in the modeling business. And through the seasons we have seen girls walk on moving catwalks or travel to China to scale the Great Wall, just to get the perfect picture.

This week saw the return of ANTM and with it the return of a show that has become an obsession for millions. Now in its tenth cycle (ANTM does not have seasons), the show has moved back to New York for some walk offs that would make Derek Zoolander blush.

However, absent from the panel of judges due to "scheduling conflicts" is 60s pixie Twiggy, who replaced super vixen Janice Dickinson. In her stead we have 80s cover girl Paulina Porizkova. The Czech beauty was a model

mainstay, gracing the likes of "Playboy," "Cosmo" and is best known for her famous "Sports Illustrated" swimsuit covers.

Tyra and company have crafted a show where, unlike most reality competitions, such as "American Idol," you don't need any real talent other than being able to walk and some can't even do that well. But here in lies the beauty of ANTM, it's about regular girls from all walks of life vying for that elusive "Cover Girl" commercial.

Just when I was getting used to the petty drama and problems of the mostly generic girls, I am hit with Fatima - the gorgeous young woman from Somalia who reveals that she underwent, female genital mutilation, a very controversial rite of passage, when she was only seven. FMG is also known as female circumcision, a cultural event that happens in many African countries where the clitoris is removed and the labia are sewn together to diminish sexual pleasure for a woman.

Fatima has the looks of super-model Iman, the activism of Jane Fonda and is in the competition to raise awareness and give a voice to a vital topic; suddenly the reality has been put back into the show. This is by far the most controversial topic touched on in ANTM history and it will be interesting to see how this all unfolds.

Even after all these years, Miss Tyra still manages to remain relatable and charming even with the runaway success of ANTM and her talk show "Tyra." Her side-kicks against fashion crime Mr. Jay and Miss J are back as well and this time they are professors of the runway, taking the wannabe divas to school.

The visceral act of watching girls smear purple eyeliner for their class photo, or figure which Amy (there were two in the finals!) will change her name to be different is reality gold. And remember nothing says class like making girls pose in a black tube top.



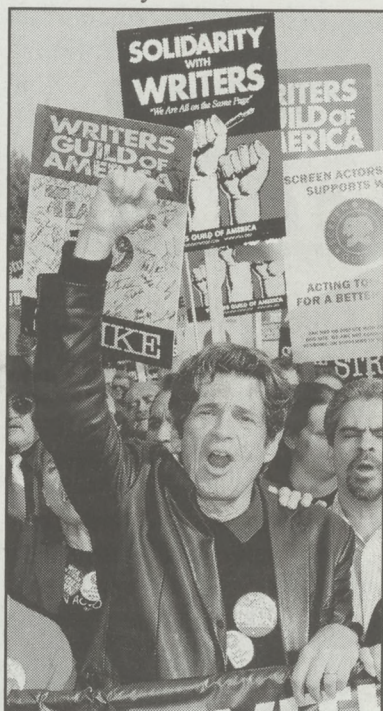
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Now Back To Your Regularly Scheduled Program

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

The resolution of the Writers Guild of America's strike has thrown Hollywood into a frenzy as studios try to get back on track and viewers wait for their favorites shows to return.

Newsweek and National Public Radio have reported that Los Angeles and the entertainment industry lost nearly \$3.5 billion in the battle between writers and producers over residuals from "new media," such as Internet downloads. Los Angeles economists estimated that almost 11,000 lost their jobs due to the strike. The ripple effect shut down production on countless TV shows and Movies, causing audiences to wonder when, if ever, they would be able to watch anything other than reality programming on VH1's "Celebrity."



PAUL OLDEN PHOTO EDITOR/

HE'S HAPPY NOW - Actor Alan Rosenberg, the president of the Screen Actors Guild, joined striking writers during a solidarity march in Hollywood in November.

"The most difficult part of this is that when the strike ends, I think that everybody here will be celebrating that the strike ended and then the next question is, when are we going to get back to work?" said "Friday Night Lights" show runner Jason Katims. "Are we going to get back to work? It's going to unfold differently for every show."

Hit shows like "Desperate Housewives" and "Ugly Betty" are scheduled for a mid-April return with 4 to 5 episodes planned to end out the season. While "Heroes" won't be saving the world until the fall when it will begin a story arc called "Villains."

Networks ABC, NBC, CBS and the CW are all scrambling to regain your viewership away from FOX, who is a big winner in this situation. FOX is the only network that saw gains (up 4 percent) from the strike with the "American Idol" powerhouse combined with the Superbowl XXXLII and the new sensation lie-detector show "The Moment of Truth" raking in millions of viewers.

But the biggest winners here are the WGA members who have gained a major victory for themselves and future writers, and now they can now get back to their laptops, grab some Starbucks and go back to being under appreciated while creating the entertainment that we love.

NEWS

7

'Discussion'

continued from page 1

States. Lake stated that one of the major problems of today is contextualizing certain topics, something that she hoped her students would see.

"I hope that in watching this film, students will realize that the issues of 1972 are the issues that this generation must address and solve," she said. "If previous generations started it, its time for this generation to finish it."

Journalist Erin Aubry Kaplan, who has written for the Los Angeles Times, was on hand after the film to discuss America's readiness for a black president.

"It has been 24 years since the last black candidate [the Rev. Jesse Jackson; the Rev. Al Sharpton and Republican Alan Keyes have run since]," said Aubry Kaplan. "[But] it's not 'can a black man win,' it's 'is he electable?'"

When asked if America was ready for a black president, Lake thought that it had more to do with than just race.

"I think the question is not is America ready, but is the power structure ready for genuine politics," she said.

Aubry Kaplan went on to discuss her anticipation for this year's election.

"Just the fact that a black man has gotten this far is exciting," she said. "This year feels unpredictable, we just don't know what is going to happen...I hope you vote."

If Obama were to be elected, there are several issues that Aubry Kaplan would like to see him address.

"I want him to deal with the prison problem, and I want to see him deal with the poor ... we need to lift from the bottom for everyone to lift up."

Candace Geyton, 24 a Valley College student, attended the discussion and said it changed her perspective of politics.

"I'd never even heard of Shirley Chisholm before now," she said. "She represented how a presidential candidate should be, and it's changed how I choose to vote and how I'm going to listen [to what the candidates say]."

'Update'

continued from page 1

these are expected to be completed this summer.

There have also been problems with the Music Building, which has joined the Art Building as one project.

"The Recital Hall was supposed to be done before school started in September, and it's not done now, and it won't be done until the end of summer," said Dennis Reed, dean of fine arts. For the concert series "we had to move to another venue, which was not really ideal."

The Theater Building and the construction of a television studio have not fared any better. However, the holdup has more to do with the demands of the Department of State Architecture than construction. The department wants elevators for the disabled to be included right in the middle of the theater's stage, which would obstruct

the view of performances.

Reed was frustrated with the department's original demand for lifts. "Happily, they've agreed to some modification; the original three lifts have been changed to two. It was so odious what they suggested, so we're going to leave the main stage as it is."

Currently, construction is in progress for the South and North Gymnasiums, the swimming pool, and the new Allied Health and Sciences Center. The center will house life science, physical science, earth science, anthropology, and health science departments.

"We're going well," said Veseliza. "The renovations and the pool will be completed in June." John Saliba, vice president of FTR, the Allied Health and Sciences Center general contractor, said that laborers work six days a week and the company is "utilizing more than 180 people to have everything done on or before the scheduled date at the end of

May."

The Physics and Chemistry Buildings will be demolished in September in order to make way for the new Student Services Building.

Renovation of the Humanities, Math and Science, Engineering Buildings, and the Planetarium will begin the day after graduation. Faculty will be relocated in April or May.

"[Constructors] will go in and do the renovations, and the week before school starts it will be ready and they will move back, hopefully," said Weider. "Plan A is that renovations be done and they move back; there's no plan B rooms."

Veseliza is looking forward to the new AAA bond program, which will be brought to voters this November. "The next step will be to include what should be happening in the next 50 years, it means infrastructure, and it means new buildings."

'ASU'

continued from page 2

environment and keeping the student body environmentally informed, as well as maintaining and further developing the campus' recycling system. The commissioner of ethnic and cultural affairs assures that all measures adopted by the ASU are in the best interest of the students, as well as opens channels of communication between students, special interest groups and admin-

istrators. The commissioner of fine arts coordinates the annual Fine Arts Festival and develops all artistic endeavors taken on by the campus at large. The inner club council representative acts as a liaison between campus clubs and the ASU. The Parliamentarian serves as the proverbial gavel at ASU meetings, assuring that all the rules of engagement are followed.

Former Parliamentarian Chiniforoushan Nazanin asserted that there are several skills that make an effective

Parliamentarian. "[They must be] on top of the game, and not afraid to stop the meeting," she said. "To do the job you need to be familiar with the legal aspects of the work." Chiniforoushan left her post due to student responsibilities and aspires to be a fire fighter in the near future.

Membership forms and exact requirements to join the ASU are located in the ASU office on the first floor of the Campus Center in room 102, near the Fireside Room.

'Profiling'

continued from page 1

getting a meeting with Tom Jacobsmeyer, the vice president of administrative services, having to first speak to a dean and a secretary. Eddie met with Jacobsmeyer five days after the incident, and although Jacobsmeyer said Eddie told him that he was unhappy about being pulled out of class for being black, Jacobsmeyer said it wasn't clear to him at the time that it was a complaint about racial profiling.

"I took that particular comment more toward the deputy's attitude," Jacobsmeyer said. "You've got to remember the context that we got a lot of these complaints. Most students don't like how they are treat-

ed by the sheriff. That's the complaint we most often get. We may have made a mistake in assuming that's what this about. If we had truly understood what his issue was we would have been much more aggressive in our approach to it."

The complaint comes after the recent controversy regarding racial profiling at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, in which deputies there were found guilty in an investigation that prompted the Los Angeles Community College District to implement a new policy Jan. 8.

"We are taking all necessary steps on our part to limit and prevent the occurrence of any such incidents in the future," Drummond said in a district press release. "The intent is that such an incident should never happen

on any of the college campuses within the [LACCD]. In addition to the actions already taken prior to the release of the results of the investigation, I plan to take other actions that increase the sensitivity of the treatment and needs of all students."

The new policy doesn't appear to address issues like the one at Valley.

"It's not a written policy," said Gene Little, the district's diversity director. "[It states] that any planned police activity needs to get approval of each individual college's president, the board of trustees and the chancellor. [The district] doesn't dictate any day to day police activities; we only get involved if there are planned police activities."

'Castro'

continued from page 1

democracy. And eventually, this transition ought to lead to free and fair elections -- and I mean free and I mean fair, not these kind of staged elections that the Castro brothers try to foist off as being true democracy."

Evidence of the Bush administration's hesitance to expect change with a Castro still in charge in Cuba is the State Department's refusal to change the administration's policy toward the island nation. Despite the change in leadership, the United States will continue its embargo as well as the current travel restrictions to the island.

The current embargo was put in place by President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

During a briefing after Castro's announcement, State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack said, "I don't see any change in our policy." He explained the Bush administration's stance on Cuba. "It's important for us, however, to make it very clear . . . that we see a democratic future for Cuba, that we see a democratic future for the Cuban people."

McCormack said, "one in which the prisons that are now full of political prisoners are emptied, one in which you actually have institutions that reflect the will of the Cuban people and serve their needs based upon that will."

'History'

continued from page 1

History.

On Feb. 12, "Black History At A Glance" began with a screening of "Shirley Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed" and continued with a discussion about whether or not America is ready for a black president. Valley College is extending many of the activities commemorating Black History Month through March in order to lengthen the celebrations and give the students additional opportunities to participate in the festivities.

"Our goal is to get as many students involved as possible," said Associate Professor of African American Studies Tara Lake. "Since we are a student-centered campus, it's important to keep the annual events going."

On Feb. 28, there will be a joint Black Student Union and Ubuntu meeting for students' interested in the student development program and BSU.

The meeting, held in Foreign Language 112 at 1 p.m. will also inform attendees about the upcoming Black History Celebration.

Valley will hold the celebration towards the end of March and will include dancers performing traditional African dances, vendors and artists displaying artistic culture and other activities that will reflect different African-American traditions.

Although Valley is taking great pride in celebrating Black History Month, not all students share the same enthusiasm.

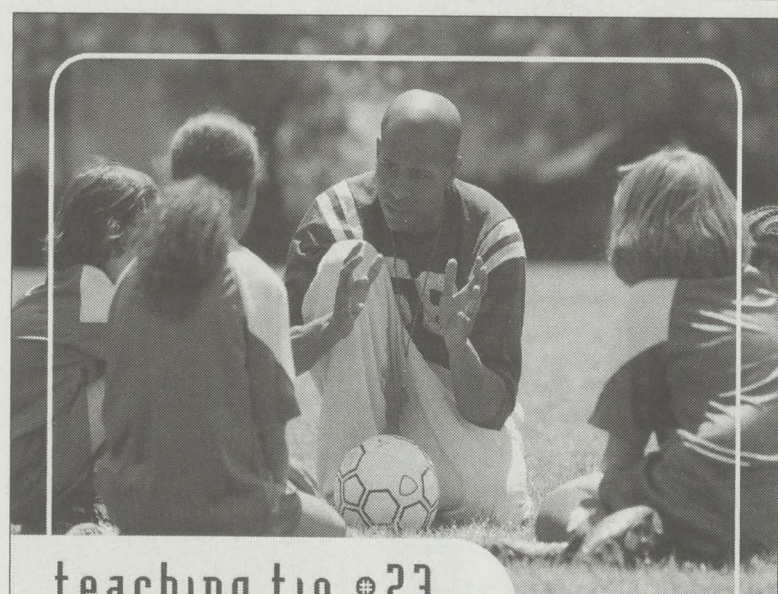
"I don't really care for it" said Valley sophomore Candace Williams. "I used to be into Black History Month, but once I started attending Valley, it seems as if it's just another month. Plus, why wait and celebrate one month out of a year?"

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SCOREBOARD

Baseball

	Feb. 23	Runs	Hits	Errors
MISSION	11	19	0	
VALLEY	10	11	0	

Men's Basketball

	Feb. 20	1st	2nd	Final
VALLEY	--	--	--	80
WEST L.A.	--	--	--	73

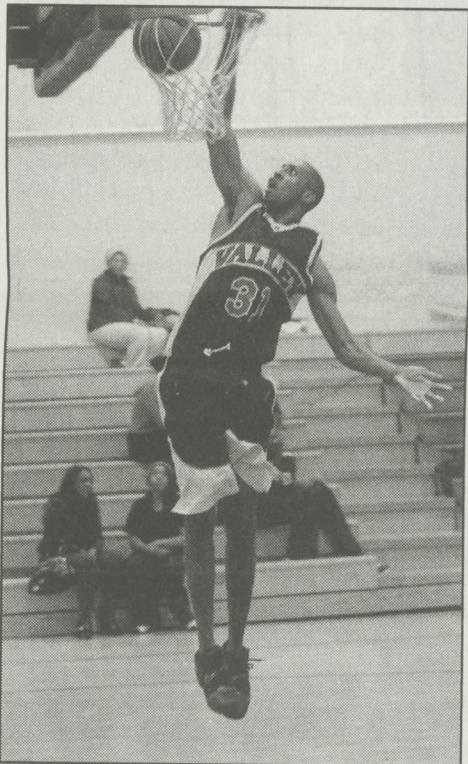
Softball

	Feb. 21 (extra inn.)	Runs	Hits	Errors
VALLEY	9	--	--	--
HANCOCK	3	--	--	--

Women's Basketball

	Feb. 20	1st	2nd	Final
VALLEY	--	--	--	64
WEST L.A.	--	--	--	63

PLAYOFFS



SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR
SLAM DUNK - Valley College center Shaun Johnson will help lead his team into the playoffs as the 13th seed.

The men's basketball team will face Long Beach City College in the Western State Conference, South Regionals on Feb. 27 in the South Gym. Game Time 7:00 p.m. (Please see full tournament bracket in Sports, Page 9)

Monarch Swim Team Stays Afloat Against Cougars

Men and Women

Wind Up with Mixed Results in Nine Events

BY KIMBERLEE DURAN
STAFF WRITER

SANTA CLARITA—The Valley Monarchs swim team competed against the Cougars of College of the Canyons Friday. Both the men and women took part in nine individual events including freestyle, individual medley and butterfly, in addition to the 200 and 400 meter freestyle relays.

The men defeated the Cougars 109-94; however the women lost 100-86.

Only three of the Monarchs swimmers competed in the 1000 meter freestyle with Jacob Cook taking first place, finishing with a time of 11:33.43, as he quickly took the lead and never fell behind. Cook also came in first in the 200 meter butterfly with a time of 2:17.57.

"[I] felt good, the water felt smooth," said Cook. "This is a different season I just have to get back into [my rhythm]."

Valley's Greg Fields, Eduard Mosolov, Daniel Garcia and Jarrod Przebieda clenched the win over C.O.C. when they won the 400-meter freestyle relay with a total time of 3:41.03.

"Our women swam great, as good as you can without really getting to rest between the events," said coach Michael Santo. "Patti Navarro was our strongest swimmer and right now she's as fast as she was at the end of last season so she's right on par."

Navarro came in second place in the 200 individual medley, but she won both the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 1:07.17 and the 500-meter freestyle at 5:48.50.

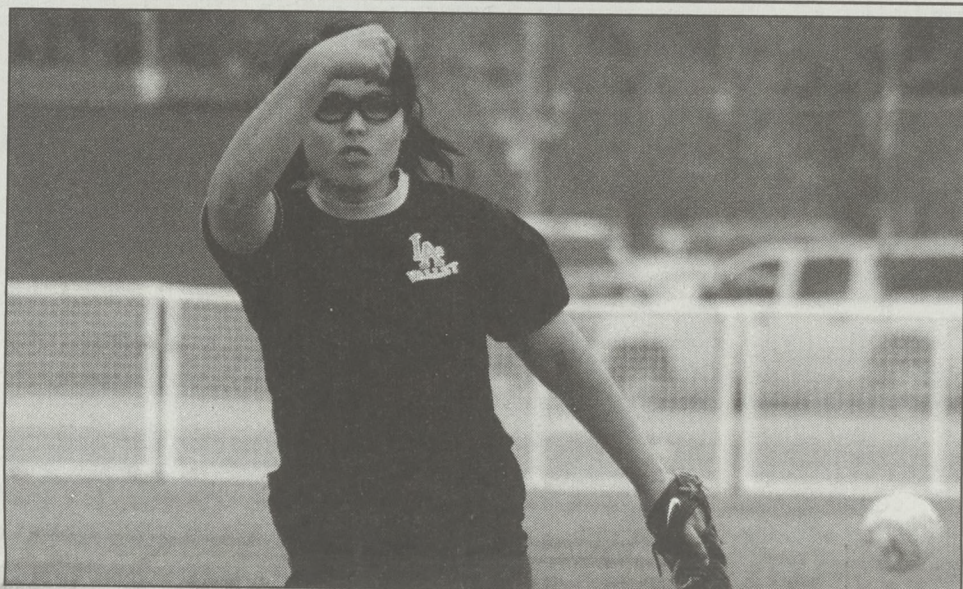
"I definitely feel stronger, and I'm more in shape," Navarro said. "I swam in high school and then



JOHN PHILLIPS / VALLEY STAR
GETTING READY - Valley College swimmer Emily Waizenegger prepares for the 100-meter freestyle amid what looks like raindrops at College of the Canyons, Friday Feb. 22. Waizenegger placed second.

took a year off so it took some time but now I feel I'm back to the [caliber] I was in high school." The Monarchs' next meet is at the

Mt. San Antonio College Invitational from Feb. 29- Mar. 1 with times to be announced later in the week.



JOSE SOTO / VALLEY STAR
FIRING A SEED - Valley's Sasha Snyder throws a fastball versus Santa Barbara on Feb. 19.

Monarchs Take Down Vaqueros

Positive Communication Helps Softball Team Rally in Extras

BY: SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

VALLEY GLEN- Last Tuesday's softball standoff proved that good communication is the key to success with the Monarchs clenching a 6-5 win against Santa Barbara Community College.

The game began with the energy fans expect to see at a Valley softball game; the mood was high and positive communication rang through the icy air, but by the third inning, not much had happened for the Monarchs.

Suddenly, every attempt at an out on defense was a few seconds too late, and the team's communication came to a screeching halt. Without the talk from the infield, the team began losing their edge against Santa Barbara.

"Why isn't anybody talking?" Valley's assistant coach Tommy Sotelo yelled out to the field. "Know what

you're doing, ladies. Know the play."

Valley's pitcher, sophomore Sasha Snyder, focused on getting the ball straight into catcher Jessie Velasquez's glove, systematically rolling the ball in her left hand and with a slight grunt, the ball spun out of her windmill windup and snapped into its destination for strikes. The team's energy instantly kicked up and the player in the field roared with positive influence.

After a seemingly endless 5-5 stint for four innings, the Monarch's continued to cheer each other on and ultimately proved they were in it to win it with Erica Nolasco's fly ball to right field that led Crystal Sanchez's winning run.

The benefit of their teamwork carried over to their game against Alan Hancock on Thursday as the Monarchs came away with a 9-3 win.

Their next home game is Feb. 28 against Ventura. Game time is 2:30 p.m.

Monarch Baseball Falls Short in Slug Fest

Comeback Attempt Stymied by Saints

BY: DENNIS ALAMINA
STAFF WRITER

VALLEY GLEN—After a back and forth game with runs scored in multiple innings on Saturday, the Valley College Monarchs baseball team couldn't finish off the Mission College Saints, falling 11-10.

Monarchs starting pitcher Drew Vassil allowed the Saints on the scoreboard first giving up a 1-0 lead in the top of the first. The Monarchs struck back in the bottom of the second inning as shortstop JP Hollywood put in a Monarch run to tie the game 1-1. The Saints caused early trouble for the Monarchs' defense putting three more runs on the scoreboard in the top of the fourth inning.

In the bottom of the inning first baseman Dominic Necuechea slid home to cut Mission's lead to 4-2, with the Monarchs still in position to make a comeback. Vassil still allowed Mission score as they put two more runs in with a 6-2 lead and the

Monarchs' chances starting to fade.

Going into to the sixth inning with help from Monarchs outfielders Mike Sanchez, Mike Calahan and Shelby Hunt the Monarchs trailed 6-4. With one out Hunt stole second base and Hollywood doubled him in get even closer.

Valley, down by four after a grand slam, were able to squeeze back into the game, but not enough to get the job done losing 11-10.

With the loss the Monarchs record is now 7-7 (0-2).

Despite the disappointing finish, Hunt finished with a stolen base, two runs and three singles and Calahan scored twice and swiped two bases.

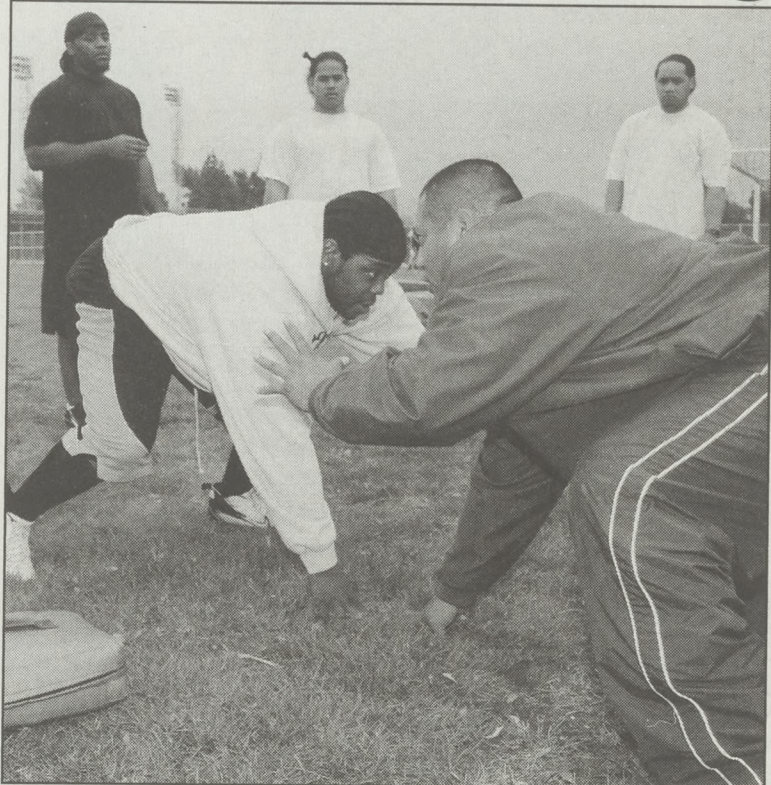
The Saints caused early trouble for the Monarchs defense putting three runs on the scoreboard in the top of the fourth.

"This was a very sloppy and dreadful game for me," said Hunt. "Not only did I miss two big catches, but there were some minor mistakes throughout the whole game."

Head coach Dave Mallas said, "I thought we played a good game, but there are some changes that we're going to fix for the rest of the season."

Valley will face West Los Angeles at Pike Field Thursday Feb. 28. Game time 2 p.m.

The Right of Spring



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR
'SPRING' INTO ACTION - Valley College defensive line coach Julio Gramajo, right, works with former Monarch football player Phillip Garrett during spring practice. The Monarchs are looking to fix what went wrong in during their 2-8 season last fall, while Garrett is staying in shape before transferring to a four-year college.

Opinion: Lakers and Gasol Appear Perfectly Fit For Championship

BY: KIMBERLEE DURAN
STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles Lakers are changing.

After Kobe Bryant demanded a trade last summer, there was serious talk of him going to the Chicago Bulls. Then, thankfully, that deal was shot down and once the season started, Laker fans saw a different team emerge. We finally received a functional point guard with the return of Derek Fisher. We saw a bench full of great reserves worthy of wearing the purple and gold from Jordan Farmar to Sasha Vujacic.

Sadly, as the season progressed, we lost Andrew Bynum for about eight weeks with an injured knee and the Lakers lost their next five of eight

games. However, it all changed on Feb. 1 when we acquired one-time all-star Pau Gasol from the Memphis Grizzlies.

Gasol, a 27-year-old veteran from Barcelona, Spain and gold medalist in the 2006 FIBA World Championships, was traded from Memphis in exchange for Kwame Brown, Javaris Crittenton, the contract of retired Aaron McKie, the draft rights to Marc Gasol (Pau's brother) and first round picks in the 2008 and 2010 NBA drafts.

Without Bynum, the Lakers looked to Brown to fill the void in the frontcourt and he didn't deliver, which had come to be an all-to-common occurrence. The only reasonable choice for the franchise was to try and get someone who could help the Lakers get points in the paint.

Los Angeles got the better end of this deal, acquiring a 7-foot forward/center who has helped them collect a 7-2 record on a season-high nine game road trip.

In fact, he also helped the Lakers win what looked like a Western Conference finals match-up against the Phoenix Suns with Shaquille O'Neal in tow on Feb. 20. Shaq looked like he was trying to do too much, finishing with four points and 14 rebounds. He also tried to prove himself by unnecessarily diving loose balls. Gasol, who wasn't forcing anything, played well with an assist from Kobe, dunked the ball late in the game to help get the win, 130-124.

By acquiring Gasol and not giving up a great deal of talent in return, the Lakers

have established themselves as a true contender for the NBA championship, not just for this year, but for the next few years, as long as they don't get plagued with injuries. They are playing exceptionally well and will only be that much better when Bynum finally returns.

With a starting five of Bryant, Fisher, Lamar Odom, Bynum, and Gasol (who averages 19 points and eight rebounds a game) intact, the Lakers will be a true force to be reckoned with. Combining Bynum's maturation as an athlete and all that Gasol brings to the table, they will accomplish what Gary Payton and Karl Malone were supposed to, and bring another championship to Los Angeles. Get ready 'cause the parade is coming to town.

THE NEXT TWO

Baseball

2/28 vs West Los Angeles 2 p.m.
3/1 @ C.O.C. 1 p.m.

Basketball PLAYOFFS

2/27 vs Long Beach City 7 p.m.

Softball

2/28 vs Ventura 2:30 p.m.
3/4 @ Cuesta 2:30 p.m.

Swimming & Diving

2/29 - 3/1 @ Mt. SAC tba
3/7 @ Baker field 2:30 p.m.

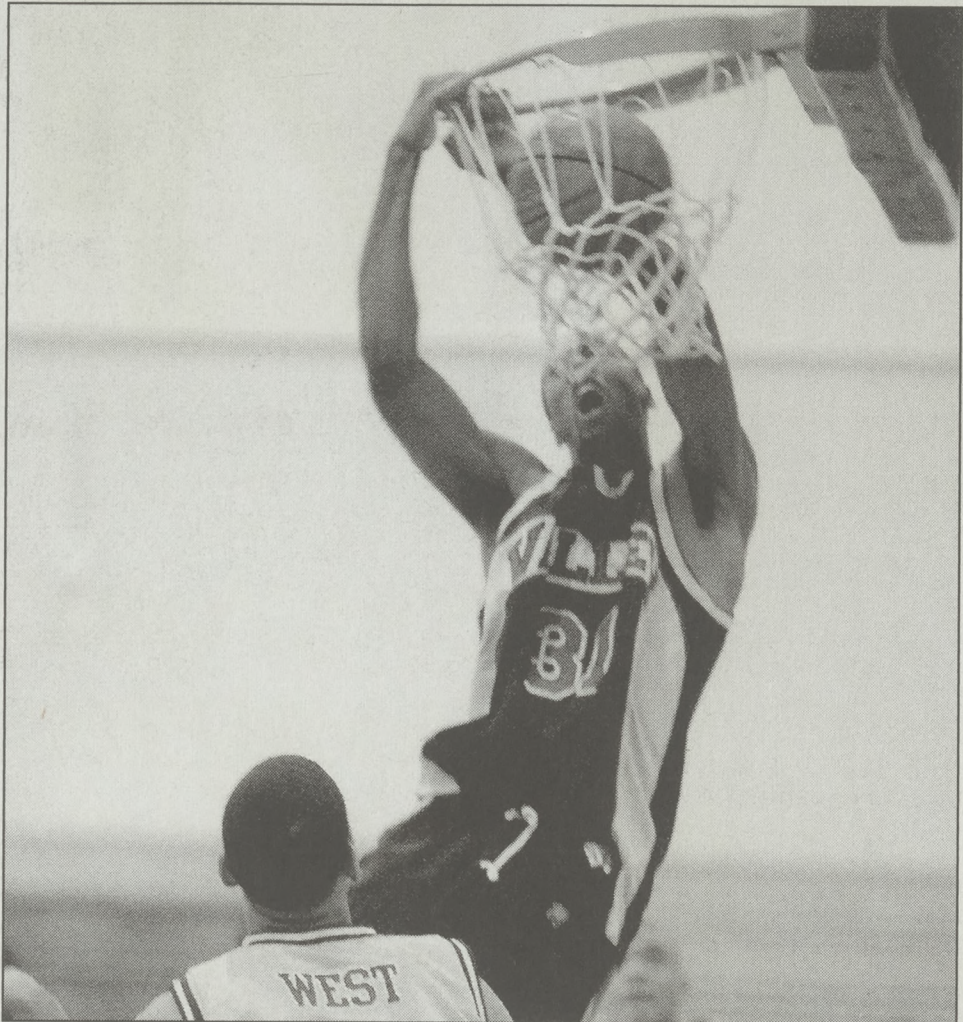
Track & Field

2/29 WSC #2 @ C.O.C. 2 p.m.
3/1 Trojan Relays @ USC tba

SPORTS

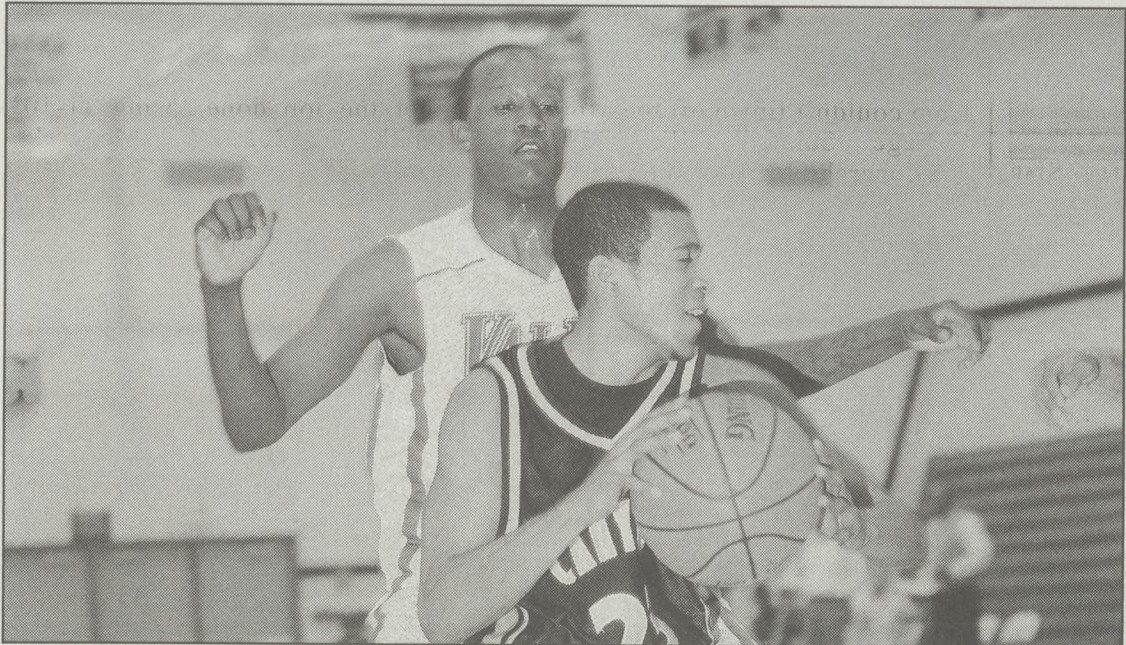
Western State Conference Playoffs

■ Monarch Madness Begins Against Long Beach City College



ABOVE THE CROWD - Valley College center Shaun Johnson was cleared for take-off on this dunk in the season's regular season finale at West Los Angeles College. Johnson finished the season third in the Western State Conference in rebounding, averaging 10.1 per game. The Monarchs begin the conference playoffs tonight at home against Long Beach City College.

SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR



TIGHT DEFENSE NEEDED - Valley College's Gino Riney, in white, plays tough defense on College of the Canyons' Brian Kimble in the Monarchs' home finale. Riney finished first in the Western State Conference in assists averaging 6.2 per game.

PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

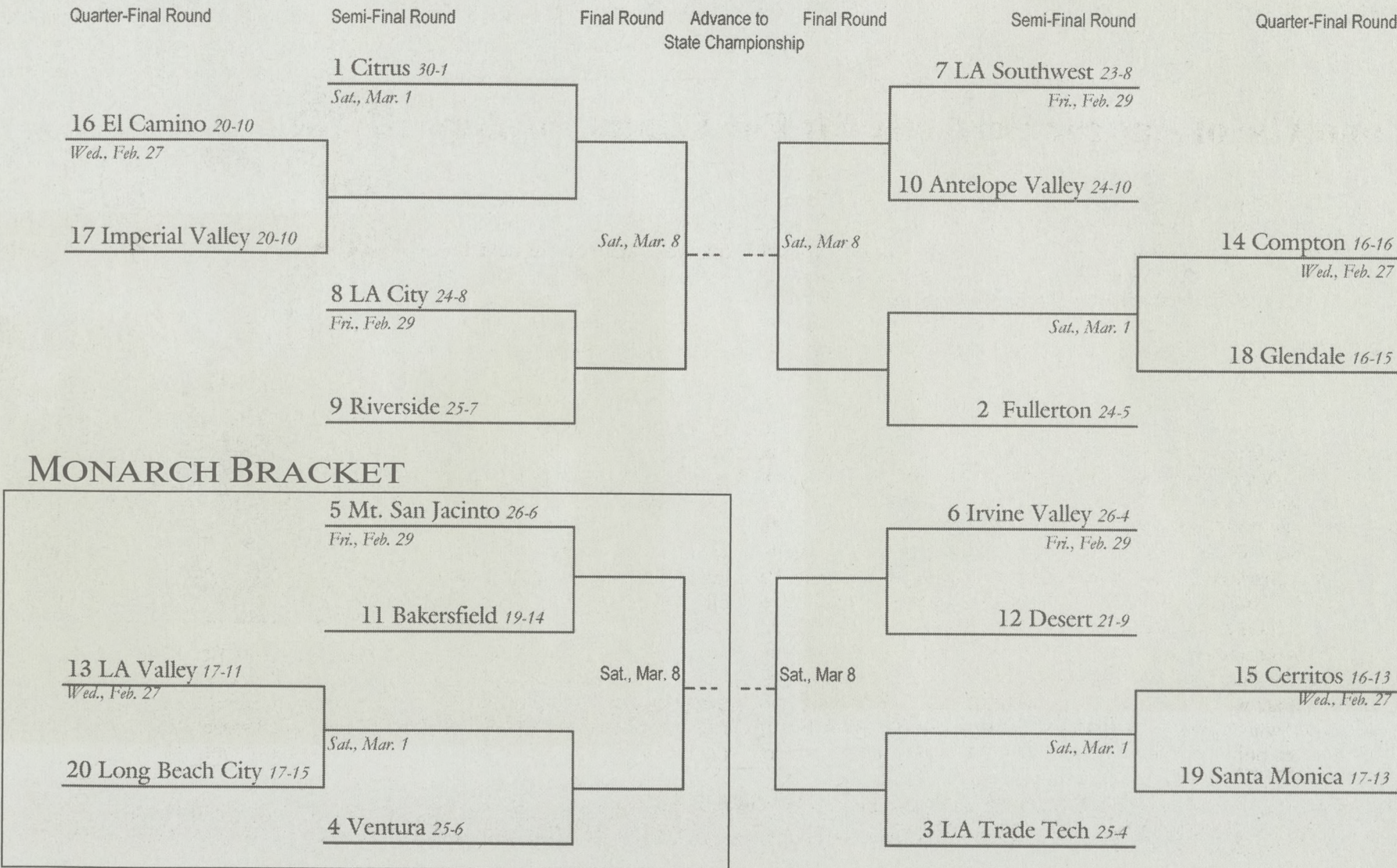


STRETCH FOR TWO - Valley College forward Ron Holden lifts the ball to the hoop in a recent game against College of the Canyons.

PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU - The Valley Star is looking for any Valley College students running in this weekend's L.A. Marathon. Please contact us at valleystar2008@yahoo.com.

Men's Basketball South Regionals 2008





EYE ON THE PRIZE - The competition was keen, as several 2-year and 4-year colleges competed for the honor of receiving these red ribbons and medals this past weekend as Valley College hosted the PSCFA speech tournament. Plaques and cash awards were also at stake.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

PRACTICING - The Valley College team was lead by Marcus Hill, 20, who's back for another season on the college speech and debate circuit.

ORATORY OLYMPICS

By Paul Olden
Photo Editor

This past weekend, Valley College was a war zone, not in the traditional sense of tanks, bombs and guns. The battles waged here were of the verbal variety. Valley played host to the Pacific Southwest Forensics Association Spring Championship speech tournament. And several members of the Monarchs' speech and debate team won recognition including Marcus Hill, Eric Patten Thomas Petersen, Alexis Nalley, LeCoya LeJuene, Pariya Beheshti and Arthur Valenzuela. Hundreds of students participated and while not everyone took home a medal, just being able to compete was award enough for most of them.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

RECEIVING HIS AWARD — Hill was among several Valley College team members to receive recognition for being event finalists at the competition. Hill took fourth place in the Senior Persuasive Division. A trip to one of the national speech competitions went to the winner.



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

ANNOUNCING TOPICS — One of the important phases of the speech and debate competition—the topic announce-- occurred several times a day. A judge stands in the middle of the Valley College cafeteria and yells out the subject. This is when the students learn what they must talk about. Topics ranged from immigration and political term limits to the pros and cons of universal health care. Such weighty subjects call for quick thinking to come up with a convincing argument on either side of the issue.



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TEAM HUDDLE - This scene was played out often over the three-day competition. Debate teams, such as this group from College of the Canyons huddle as they get ready for the verbal battles.